Maharashtra Vidhan Sabha for setting up a Hindi University at Sevagram in Maharashtra; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction in this regard ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The matter has been place before the Committee set up by the Government under the Chairmanship of Dr. Shiva Mangal Singh 'Suman' to advise about the nature, structure, location, financial requirements and other related matters in respect of the proposed International Hindi University. The Committee has not yet taken a final view in this regard.

Commercialisation of Education

1888. SHRI S. K. T. RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that commercialisation of education from nursery to Higher Education level has become a menance to the core objective of education; and

(b) whether in view of the fact that monetary exploitation has become the objective of these educational institutions which will lead to the destruction of moral, social, cultural and intellectual fabric of the society, what corrective steps are being taken by Government to arrest the growth of such educational institutions at all levels ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) and (b) The Central Government has been taking persuasive and preventive measures to curb commercialisation of education. It has been urging upon the State Governments to take steps to prevent the commercialisation of education. It has established the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) which has been vested with statutory powers to prevent the commercialisation of the technical and professional education.

The University Grants Commission Act empowers the Commission to make regulations specifying the matters in respect of which fees may be charged.

So far as medical education is concerned, the Government had introduced a Bill in Parliament, the All India Medical Council (Amendment) Bill, 1987, under which provision exists to prohibit the charging of capitation fee or any amount in excess of fee prescribed by the Medical Council of India. However, the matter relating to charging of capitation fee by private medical colleges is subjudice as a Supreme Court Constitution Bench is considering the Writ Petition on the subject.

The School education is primarily the concern of the State Governments/UTs and they have their own Acts/Rules to meet the commercialisation of education.

Mahabodhi Archaeological Development Project

1889. SHRI BISHAMBHAR NATH PANDE : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Department of Archaeology, Government of Bihar, is working on Mahabodhi Archaeological Development Project;

(b whether Government have ascertained the view of the countries interested in the development of the site about the nature of co-operation they would extend in the implementation of the project; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CURTURE) (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) The Department of Archaeology, Government of Bihar, has submitted to the State Government an approach paper on the Mahabodhi Archaeological Project. The State Government has not finalised the Project.

(b) and (c) Does not arise at this stage.